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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/200,631	11/30/1998	CURTIS L. ASHTON	1569/1570	9598

22193 7590 12/31/2002

QWEST COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL INC
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EXAMINER

ENG, GEORGE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/200,631

Applicant(s)
Ashton et al.

Examiner
George Eng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 10, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-11, and 13-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-11, and 13-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed 10/10/2002 (paper no. 18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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3. Claims 1, 4-11, 13-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bigham et al. (US PAT. 5,740,075 hereinafter Bigham) in view of Sakai et al. (US PAT. 5,557,437 hereinafter Saki) and Tagami et al. (JP 08-172490 hereinafter Tagami).

Regarding claim 1, Bigham discloses a system for powering a fiber optic communication network which transmits communication data between a telecommunications service provider and a remote user device as shown in figure 3. The system comprises an optical network node (ONU 1210) for converting the communication data from a digital optical state to a digital electrical state (col. 21 lines 25-23), a fiber optic communication medium (1190) configured to transfer the communication data between the telecommunications service provider (1333), and the optical network node (col. 20 lines 41-42 and col. 26 lines 31-46), a power source (1211) and a battery reserve power configured to supply an electrical supply voltage to power the digital subscriber line access multiplexer, and an electrical conducting medium (1215) configured to conduct the electrical supply voltage and the communication data from the optical network node to a network interface device in electrical communication with the remote user device (col. 21 lines 8-13 and col. 26 lines 55-59). Bigham differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching the power source comprising an alarm system configured to monitor the operation of the electrical power source and provide power source operation information. However, Sakai teaches an optic terminal system having a power source (19, figure 5) and a monitoring function, i.e., an alarm system, to check an operation of an electrical power source in order to provide a judgment signal to indicate the operation state of the power source (col. 7 line 45 through col. 8 line 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious

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to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bigham in having the alarm system configured to monitor the operation of the electrical power source and provide power source operation information, as per teaching of Sakai, because it makes significantly time saving for maintenance of the optical terminal system. Although neither Bigham nor Sakai specifically teaches to transmit the operation information to the telecommunications service provider, it is notoriously well known in the art of a monitoring system for detecting the abnormality of a power supply and reporting to a host, i.e., a telecommunications service provider, when a power failure or a fault of the power supply occurs in order to restore the power, for example see Tagami (abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Bigham and Sakai in transmitting the operation information to the telecommunications service provider in order to restore the power.

Regarding claims 4-7, Bigham disclose that the power source (1211) is located proximate to the optical network node (1210) which is remote from the optical network node and supplies power to plurality of the optical network node (figure 3B). Note while it is notoriously well known in the art that power source is capable of shifting location due to the design purposed. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bigham in having power source (1211) located proximate to telecommunications service provider or, as well as a digital loop carrier based upon the design purposes.

Regarding claims 8-10, Bigham teaches the remote user device comprising telephone (1219), a computer (1217), and a television (figure 3B).

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Regarding claims 11 and 17, Tagami teaches the power supply comprising a primary power source (8) for providing power during normal operation and a secondary power source (9) for providing power when the primary power source is inoperable (abstract), wherein the power source is obviously recognized in having a plurality of rectifiers, a plurality of converters, a plurality of current limiters, and a plurality of batteries configured to supply the DC voltage.

Regarding claim 13, Tagami teaches to connect the alarm system (18) with conducting medium to report power source information to the host device (abstract)

Regarding claim 14, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 1.

Regarding claim 15, Bigham teaches the optical network node comprising an optical network unit (col. 20 line 40).

Regarding claim 16, Bigham discloses the system comprising the optical network (ONU 1210) functioning as a digital subscriber line access multiplexer for converting the communication data from a digital optical state to a digital electrical state (col. 21 lines 25-23).

Regarding claims 18-19, Bigham discloses an electrical conducting medium conducting the electrical supply voltage and the communication data from the optical network node and the remote user device, and a network interface device (1217) connected between the optical network and the remote user device (figure 3B).

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Regarding claims 20-21, Bigham teaches to transfer digital communication data between the telecommunications service provider and an optical network unit, i.e., a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (col. 21 lines 25-23).

Regarding claims 22-23, Butler teaches to transmitting alarm signal comprising transmitting power level and operational data to the telecommunications service provider (col. 2 line 58 through col. 3 line 19).

Regarding claim 24, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claims 11 and 17.

Regarding claims 25-26, the limitations of the claims are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claims 18-19.

Regarding claims 27-28, Butler teaches the power source information in order to switch in battery backup power supplies (col. 3 lines 11-19) such that the power source information is obvious selected from a group consisting of information about an AC power source, information about a rectifier's voltage, information about a converter's voltage, and information about a current limiter's current.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-11 and 13-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection..

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Czerwiec (US PAT. 5,640,512) discloses a maintenance method for providing high integrity unidirectional SONET transport signal link for a vide distribution network comprising a monitor block to monitor optical signal within a network node and generate a status signal reporting to a transmit circuit to indicate the performance of the network node (col. 4 line 33 through col.6 line 67).

6. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

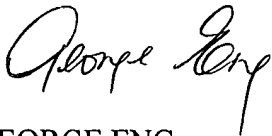
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is (703) 308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

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Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Eng".

GEORGE ENG

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